

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Enclosed are replacement sheets for all 3 sheets of the drawings, containing the following changes.

First, in Figures, 4, 5 and 8, the cross-hatching for the cuffs is changed to plastic.

Second, in Figure 8, the cross-hatching for the welds is changed to plastic.

Third, in Figure 8, reference numerals 65 and 68 are added for the grooves formed in and by spigot cuff 45 and bell cuff 48, respectively.

Fourth, in Figure 8, a (free-standing) lead line is added for reference numeral 43.

Each of the three affected sheets of the drawings has been identified as "Replacement Sheet" in the top center margin thereof.

REMARKS

This AMENDMENT is intended in the main to implement changes approved, required and/or urged by the examiner in the EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT enclosed with the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE dated 03/13/2006 (hereafter "NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE"). The EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT references a telephone interview between the examiner and the undersigned on December 20, 2005. The EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT correctly lists the matters discussed by the parties, but these matters are thought to have been the cumulative subject of two interviews between the parties, on December 20, 2005 and December 21, 2005.

1. Amendment of the Drawing

As required by the examiner at page 4 of the EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT included with the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE, the cross-hatching for the cuffs is changed to plastic in Figures 4, 5 and 8; and the cross-hatching of the welds is changed to plastic in Figure 8

Also, as alluded to above, in Figure 8, reference numerals 65 and 68 are added for the spigot groove 45 and the bell groove 48, respectively; and a free-standing lead line is added for reference numeral 43.

2. Amendment of the Summary of the Invention

The Summary of the Invention is revised to more precisely reflect the language of the allowed claims, claims 1-4, as urged in the EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT enclosed with the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE.

First, in the preceding section titled SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS, two paragraphs are deleted from the Summary of the Invention. These two deleted paragraphs summarized claims of the as-filed application.

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Second, two new paragraphs are added to the Summary of the Invention. The first new paragraph contains three sentences, which paraphrase the wording of allowed claims 1, 3/1 and 4/1, respectively. The second new paragraph paraphrases the wording of allowed claim 2.

3. Amendment of the Detailed Description

The first paragraph of page 7 of the Detailed Description of the application is revised as follows. First, reference is added to the numerals 65 and 68, which are being added to the drawings to denote the groove in the spigot cuff 45 and the groove in the bell cuff 48, respectively. These grooves were depicted in the as-filed application and are now specified in the claims per the EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT. Second, several editorial changes are made in said paragraph.

4. Summary and Action Requested

No new matter is involved. This AMENDMENT is being mailed prior to the date of payment of the issue fee, and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.312. Acceptance and entry of the drawing amendments, the replacement drawing sheets and the amendments of the specification are believed proper and are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
LAW OFFICE OF PHILIP A. DALTON

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